Power to State for Mining Lease

2525. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :

Will the MInister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to relax rules governing mining lease and also propose to empower State Governments to provide mining lease;

(b) if so, the reasons for relaxing mine leasing norms;

(c) the details of private sector companies permitted by the Union Government for mining and norms adopted for assigning them mining lease ;

(d) whether any State Government can enter into a collaboration with any private party for mining at diamond without getting prior permission from the Union Government; and

(e) if so, under which Act it can be done?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) with Secretaries, Mines & Geology of State Governments etc. as members. The terms of reference of the Committee *interalia* include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/ renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/ renewal of prospecting Licence/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining.

(c) to (e) All applications for grant of mineral concessions are received by the respective State Governments only. Further, the Mineral Concessions to the applicants including private sector Companies are granted by the concerned State Governments subject to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules made there-under. As per Section 5 of the Act, Mineral concessions can be granted only to an Indian National or a company as defined in Sub-Section (1) of Section (3) of the Companies Act, 1956. However, in respect of minerals specified in the First Schedule of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, no prospecting Licence or Mining Lease can be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

Acquisition of Land by Konkan Railway Authorities

2526. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Authority has acquired land from farmers for Konkan Railway;

(b) if so, the rate of compensation per hectare paid/ proposed to be paid by the Konkan Railway Authority;

(c) whether complaints of improper and inadequate payment of compensation have been received by the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir. The Konkan Railway Corporation does not acquire land. The State Governments acquire and hands over land.

(b) The rate of compensation is varying depneding on location, state etc. however, the rate of compensation per hectare is fixed by the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) Complaints are received by the respective State Governments. The Konkan Railway Corporation neither fixes the rate nor makes the payment directly. Any compensation to the land losers is made through the respective State Govts. The Konkan Railway deposits the amount of the declared award with the State Govt., who in turn arranges/to the land losers. Some of the representations are at different stages of awards finalisation by State Land Acquisition Officers (SLAOs).

All out efforts are made by the KRC to get these cleared and keep close liaison with SLAOs.

Broadcasting Bill

2527. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Government has expressed its opposition to the new broadcasting bill introduced in Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) (a) : No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Maharajganj

2528. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Maharajganj district of